

Informal document nr4 to the 37th session of the Executive Body

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention

Proposals for updates to the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**Submitted by the Chair of the Executive Body****I. Background and purpose of this document**

The proposals in this document are intended to stimulate discussion under Agenda item 8 of the Provisional Agenda of the 37th Session of the Executive Body, and build on reports from the Policy Review Group, especially its recommendations in document ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4. By structuring the discussion around the proposals below, it is the wish of the Chair that the Executive Body takes a step further in its work to update the Long Term Strategy (LTS) of the Convention.

Delegations are asked to come prepared to react on the following proposals regarding the update of the LTS.

II. Proposals concerning process, content and guiding principles

The aim is to agree on an updated LTS at the 38th Session of the Executive Body in December 2018.

The timeframe for the revised LTS shall be 2030, but may include, where appropriate, developments over a longer period up to 2050.

The revised LTS should have the following five chapters: (a) Introduction, (b) Strengths and successes of the convention, (c) Remaining challenges for human health and ecosystems; (d) Priorities for future action; and (e) Conclusion.

The following four priorities of the Convention shall guide the update of the LTS: (a) Implementation of the Convention and all the current protocols, (b) Ratification of the three latest protocols, (c) Increased cooperation with countries and regions outside the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, (d) Further review and possible revision and extension of the protocols.

The Executive Body should consider tasking the Policy Review Group (PRG) with working on text proposals for updating the LTS, to be presented to the Working Group on Strategies and Review in spring 2018.

III. Proposals for future focus and priorities

The highest priority for the Convention shall continue to be to maximize its impact as well as that of its protocols by increasing ratification and implementation, notably of the three latest, amended protocols: the Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The Convention and its protocols shall remain open to countries in the UNECE region only, but improved cooperation with other countries, regions and organisations shall be pursued in order to

address air pollution at a broader geographic scale. The Convention could be a model for other regions.

The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) shall be used as a means of encouraging more national action on air pollution within and outside the ECE region.

The health and ecosystem impacts of air pollution measures taken at the regional scale on local and urban air quality shall be assessed, and the impacts of air pollution at the hemispheric scale on regional and local air quality shall be further investigated.

The Convention shall promote the exchange of data and experiences of the effectiveness of measures taken at national and local scale, and encourage mutual learning.

Monitoring and modelling activities on air pollution under EMEP shall be further aligned with those for assessing impacts on health and ecosystems under the WGE. In addition, the Convention shall actively pursue making monitoring networks serve multiple clients (national and international) working on other issues (e.g., climate change, land-use and biodiversity management).

Interactions between air pollution and climate change shall be an important focus. This includes synergies between emission abatement measures targeting air pollutants and greenhouse gases, impacts on air quality from air pollutants that also have near-term climate impacts, and interactions between air pollution and climate change effects.

IV. Proposals for future policy development

The Convention shall continue to use the best available science and further develop the multi-effect multi-pollutant framework, and the Convention Parties shall maintain and extend its scientific network in order keep the science base up-to-date.

The Convention shall strive for an integrated approach to environmental policy. Especially the following three interrelated policy fields should be taken into account in the Conventions policy making process: (a) ozone-nitrogen-climate-biodiversity interactions, (b) integrated nitrogen management including its impacts for health, and (c) an integrated approach to air pollution and climate change policies and measures.

The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012 shall be reviewed and updated following the entry into force of the amendments.

The updates to the Gothenburg Protocol shall consider inclusion of the following:
emission reduction commitments for black carbon;
emission reduction commitments for methane (as a crucial ozone precursor);
strengthened commitments for ammonia abatement ;
emissions from shipping.

The target year for the commitments in the revised Gothenburg Protocol shall be 2030.